

## 238 Burglaries Carried Out By FBI Agents, Senators Told

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Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, said today he had been told by the FBI that agents carried out more than 238 "black bag jobs" — burglaries — against domestic subversive organizations.

Charles Brennan, a former assistant director of the bureau who is now retired, told the Senate Intelligence Committee headed by Church that the burglaries were clearly illegal.

"There was no doubt in my mind about that," Brennan declared.

But Brennan said that, although the break-ins were technically illegal, he considered them necessary to help protect the country.

THE FIGURES read into the record by Church, after they had been declassified by the bureau, apparently represent only a small portion of the burglaries carried out by the bureau. Brennan said his understanding was that most such operations were conducted in espionage cases.

The figures released by Church, however, were confined to domestic subversive organizations.

Between 1942 and April 1968, he said, 238 break-ins were conducted against 14 "domestic subversive targets."

Three domestic subversive organizations were targeted for "numerous" additional break-ins between October 1962 and June 1966, he said. But he said the bureau was unable to provide exact figures in those cases.

After hearing Brennan's testimony, Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., declared: "Our institutions failed us. I am distressed to hear you say you knew this was illegal. That is the greatest disservice."

THE SENATE committee also made available a memo from William C. Sullivan, then a high-ranking bureau official, to C.D. DeLoach, another top Bureau official, on July 19, 1966, which said:

"We do not obtain authorization for 'black bag' jobs from outside the bureau. Such a technique involves trespass and is clearly illegal; therefore, it would be impossible to obtain any legal sanction for it. Despite this, 'black bag' jobs have been used because they represent an invaluable technique in combatting subversive activities of a clandestine nature aimed directly at undermining and destroying our nation."

Yesterday the committee was given details of mail intercepts by the CIA stretching over a period of 20 years.

In January 1968 a person with a scarcely legible Armenian-sounding name wrote to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., from Soviet Armenia to thank him for information regarding a U.S.-Soviet health exchange program.

In June 1968 Ray Price, a longtime friend and aide of Richard M. Nixon, was visiting the Soviet Union. He wrote to Nixon concerning the campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

Sometime in 1971 Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, while on a trip to the Soviet Union, wrote some traveler's observations to his mother-in-law in Boise, Idaho.

What these letters have in common — aside from apparently being overwhelmingly trivial — is that they were opened, read and copied by the CIA. The original letters then went

on to the addressee but the copies went into the CIA's files.

The Senate Intelligence Committee said yesterday that the CIA also intercepted the mail of Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur F. Burns; Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn.; Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y.; former West Virginia Secretary of State Jay Rockefeller, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; his wife, Coretta; Harvard University; the Ford Foundation; the Rockefeller Foundation; Nobel Prize-winning scientist Linus Pauling, author John Steinbeck and former United Auto Workers official Victor Reuther.

Church, the Intelligence Committee's chairman, confessed that he did not know why the mail of those individuals was opened. Nor did he know how frequently their correspondence was intercepted. But he said he was determined to find out.

One thing Church said he knew for a certainty — the letter openings the committee now knows about are only a small fraction of the total handled by the CIA during a program which began in 1954 and ended in 1973.

The names of Pauling, Steinbeck and Reuther were on a CIA "watch list" which included about 1,200 other individuals of interest to the agency. But Church said the other names, discussed at the hearing were not on the watch list.

"It is obvious the opening of mail was not restricted to any particular watch list and may have gone very far afield," Church said.

Under CIA procedures, correspondence between individuals on the watch list and Communist countries, chiefly the Soviet Union, was routinely opened and copied. Church said the committee hopes to find out how frequently the letters of persons not included on the list were opened.